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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Steven M. Greenberg, Esquire Christopher & Weisberg, P.A. Suite 2040 200 East Las Olas Boulevard Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301			EXAMINER WOZNIAK, JAMES S	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/730,540	Applicant(s) AGAPI ET AL.	
	Examiner James S. Wozniak	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. **Claims 9 and 11-29** are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 9, line 3, claim 19, line 3, and claim 29, line 29, “the presence” should be changed to –a presence-- in order to provide proper antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

In claim 11, line 2, “in speech application” should be changed to –in a speech application--.

Claims 12-20 include the term “the machine readable storage medium”, which should be changed to –the computer readable storage medium-- in order to provide proper antecedent basis for this term in the claims.

In claim 21, line 3, “the system comprising” should be changed to –the system comprising:-- in order to properly set the preamble apart from the body of the claim.

Dependent claims 22-29 fail to overcome the objection directed to independent claims 11 and 21, and thus, are also objected to by virtue of their dependency.

Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. **Claims 1, 6-8, 10-11, 16-18, 20-21, and 26-28** are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 5-9, and 13-18 of copending Application No. 10/956,569 in view of Chung et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,115,686*).

Claims 1 of the present invention and application '569 include the common steps of: "identifying...extracting...processing...". Application '569 adds the additional step of "further processing the audio text recordation plan to account for intonation cues," however, the addition of such a step to the present invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention as is evidenced by Chung. Specifically, Chung discloses the ability to parse/analyze a markup language text document for intonation to determine how speech should sound (*Col. 6, Lines 25-52*). Such a modification of the present invention would provide the benefit of ensuring that words are enunciated properly (*Chung, Col. 4, Lines 49-54*).

Claim 6 of the present invention and claim 5 of application '569 are directed to the similar steps of: "determining...modifying...".

Claim 7 of the present invention and claim 6 of application '569 are directed to the similar step of: "sorting the extracted audio segments".

Claim 8 of the present invention and claim 7 of application '569 are directed to the similar steps of: "identifying...identifying...deleting...".

Claim 10 of the present invention and claim 8 of application '569 are directed to the similar limitation regarding a VoiceXML programming language.

Claims 11 and 21 of the present invention and claims 9 and 17 respectively recite computer readable medium and system implementations for performing the method of claims 1

of the present invention and claim 1 of '569, thus, these claims are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting under similar rationale.

Dependent Claims 16-18 and 20 of the present application and dependent claims 13-16 of '569 contain subject matter respectively similar to claims 6-8 and 10 of the present application and claims 5-8 of '569, thus, these claims are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting under similar rationale.

Dependent Claims 26-28 of the present application contain subject matter respectively similar to claims 6-8 of the present application and claims 5-7 of '569, thus, these claims are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting under similar rationale.

Thus, Claims 1, 6-8, 10-11, 16-18, 20-21, and 26-28 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 5-9, and 13-18 of copending Application No. 10/956,569 in view of Chung et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,115,686*).

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. **Claims 11-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 11 is drawn to a “program” *per se* as recited in the preamble (i.e., the body of the claim, as defined by the preamble, is directed to the program rather than the method performed when the program on the computer readable medium is executed- “the computer program performing a method comprising”) and as such is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Also the computer readable medium of claim 11 is not limited to tangible computer readable mediums because the specification indicates that the computer readable storage medium refers to any non-volatile storage medium, which would include signals (*Specification, Paragraph 0045*). See MPEP § 2106.IV.B.1.a. Data structures not claimed as embodied in computer readable media are descriptive material *per se* and are not statutory because they are not capable of causing functional change in the computer. See, e.g., *Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d at 1361, 31 USPQ2d at 1760 (claim to a data structure *per se* held nonstatutory). Such claimed data structures do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and other claimed aspects of the invention, which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized. In contrast, a claimed computer readable medium encoded with a data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory. Similarly, computer programs claimed as computer listings *per se*, i.e., the descriptions or expressions of the programs are not physical “things.” They are neither computer components nor statutory processes, as they are not “acts” being performed. Such claimed computer programs do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and other claimed elements of a computer, which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized.

In order to overcome the first aspect of this rejection, it is recommended to change the preamble to –A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program which, when executed by a computer, identifies and optimizes planned audio segments in a speech application program by performing a method comprising:--. In order to overcome the second aspect of this rejection, it is recommended to change “A computer readable storage medium” to –A non-volatile computer readable storage medium--.

Dependent claims 12-20 fail to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of independent claim 11, and thus, are also directed to non-statutory subject matter by virtue of their dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. **Claims 1, 10-11, and 20-21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Busayapongchai et al (*U.S. PG Publication: 2004/0254792*).

With respect to **Claim 1**, Busayapongchai discloses:

Identifying planned audio segments in the speech application program, the audio segments containing audio text to be recorded and associated file names (*identifying audio text in*

a VoiceXML script, referencing recordable text and associated file naming descriptors, Paragraphs 0028-0030);

Extracting the audio segments from the speech application program (*parser extracting text strings from VoiceXML scripts, Paragraph 0031*); and

Processing the extracted audio segments to create an audio text recordation plan (*recording manager that passes extracted text strings to a voice talent for manual recording, Paragraphs 0031 and 0039*).

With respect to **Claim 10**, Busayapongchai discloses the VoiceXML script as applied to Claim 1.

With respect to **Claim 11**, Busayapongchai discloses the method, as applied to claim 1, implemented as a program stored on a computer readable medium (*Paragraphs 0023-0026*).

Claim 20 contains subject matter similar to Claim 10, and thus, is rejected under similar rationale.

With respect to **Claim 21**, Busayapongchai discloses the method, as applied to claim 1, implemented in a computer's CPU (*Paragraphs 0023-0026*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 2-5, 12-15, and 22-25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busayapongchai et al in view of Ladd et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,269,336*).

With respect to **Claim 2**, Busayapongchai discloses the method for extracting and producing audio text for recording as applied to Claim 1. Busayapongchai does not specifically suggest identifying text associated with a pause, creating a silence file associated with the identified pause, and modifying an audio file referenced by the text containing the pause information. Ladd, however, recites the ability to process a “break” element in VoiceXML script to divide audio text scripts, insert a predefined length of audio silence, and divide audio prompts (*Col. 29, Line 58- Col. 30, Line 26*).

Busayapongchai and Ladd are analogous art because they are from a similar field of endeavor in VoiceXML processing systems. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention, to modify the teachings of Busayapongchai with the break element taught by Ladd in order to configure and add natural speaking characteristics to a VoiceXML page (*Ladd, Col. 16, Lines 11-20*).

With respect to **Claim 3**, Ladd further discloses:

Determining if the text indicating a programmed pause occurs within the audio text of the extracted audio segment (*identifying a break element, Col. 29, Line 58- Col. 30, Line 26*); and

Separating the audio text of the extracted audio segments into discrete audio text segments if the programmed pause occurs within the audio text of the extracted audio segment (*break element is inserted between two segments of audio text, Col. 29, Line 58- Col. 30, Line 26*).

With respect to **Claim 4**, Busayapongchai does not specifically identify and create elements for variable text, however, Ladd further discloses:

Identifying text indicating a variable in the extracted audio segments (*"option" element in VoiceXML that defines multiple variable prompts, Col. 27, Line 53- Col. 29, Line 35*);

Determining if the variable has an associated text file containing variable values (*"option" element contains multiple segments of audio text, Col. 29, Lines 5-35*);

Creating a variable audio segment for each said variable value, if the variable has an associated text file (*audio prompt that is provided for each variable instance in the "option" element, Col. 29, Lines 5-35*); and

Modifying the audio segment containing the text indicating the variable (*"option" element is divided using separate script tags for each variable, Col. 29, Lines 5-35*).

With respect to **Claim 5**, Ladd further discloses:

Determining if the variable occurs within audio text of the audio segment (*identifying an "option" element, Col. 27, Line 53- Col. 29, Line 53*); and

Separating the audio text of the extracted audio segments into discrete audio text segments if the variable occurs within the audio text of the extracted audio segment (*separating opening prompts and variable elements, which are identified using tags, within an "option" element, Col. 29, Lines 5-35*).

Claims 12-15 contain subject matter respectively similar to Claims 2-5, and thus, are rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 22-25 contain subject matter respectively similar to Claims 2-5, and thus, are rejected under similar rationale.

10. **Claims 6-8, 16-18, and 26-28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busayapongchai et al in view of Wen et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,341,959*).

With respect to **Claim 6**, Busayapongchai discloses the method for extracting and producing audio text for recording as applied to Claim 1. Busayapongchai also recites VoiceXML script comprising multiple sentences (*Paragraphs 0002-0003; and 0029*). Busayapongchai does not specifically suggest modifying multiple text segments to obtain only a single text segment if extracted audio segments contain more than one sentence, however, Wen recites the ability to detect and delete a repeated sentence, thus obtaining a single instance of that sentence (*Col. 3, Lines 64-65*).

Busayapongchai and Wen are analogous art because they are from a similar field of endeavor in language user interfaces. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention, to modify the teachings of Busayapongchai with the repeated sentence detection means taught by Wen in order to save storage space in the VoiceXML system taught by Busayapongchai (*Wen, Col. 3, Lines 64-65*).

With respect to **Claim 7**, Busayapongchai further discloses:

Processing the extracted audio segments further includes sorting the extracted audio segments (*ordering text sequences for recording, Paragraph 0032*).

With respect to **Claim 8**, Busayapongchai discloses the identification of audio text as applied to claim 1, while Wen recites the ability to detect and delete repeated sentences, as applied to Claim 6.

Claims 16-18 contain subject matter respectively similar to Claims 6-8, and thus, are rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 26-28 contain subject matter respectively similar to Claims 6-8, and thus, are rejected under similar rationale.

11. **Claims 9, 19, and 29** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busayapongchai et al in view of Ladd et al, and further in view of Heinze et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,915,254*).

With respect to **Claim 9**, Busayapongchai in view of Ladd discloses the method for extracting and producing audio text having “option” elements for recording as applied to Claim 4. Ladd further recites that the variables within the option elements are nouns or open class words (*Col. 29, Lines 5-35*). Busayapongchai in view of Ladd does not specifically teach performing text parsing by dividing text at a closed class word, wherein a first audio text ends with a non-closed class word preceding the variable. Such a parsing principle, however, is well known in text processing, as is evidenced by Heinze. Heinze discloses breaking text at closed class words (*i.e., articles, prepositions, pronouns, etc.*) (*Col. 11, Lines 45-47; and Col. 19, Line 64- Col. 20, Line 12*). Thus, in the case of Heinze, the word preceding the closed-class word and ending the first segment would be non-closed class and would precede the variable, which are nouns (*i.e., open class words*) in the case of Ladd.

Busayapongchai, Ladd, and Heinze are analogous art because they are from a similar field of endeavor in text file processing systems. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention, to modify the teachings of Busayapongchai in

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view of Ladd with the parsing scheme taught by Heinze in order to provide natural language structure understanding in a script (*Heinze, Col. 4, Lines 33-37*).

Claim 19 contains subject matter similar to Claim 9, and thus, is rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 29 contains subject matter similar to Claim 9, and thus, is rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Hogan et al (*U.S. Patent: 5,619,554*)- discloses a system for recording voice scripts.

Case (*U.S. Patent: 5,758,323*)- discloses a method for preparing a staged script to be read by voice talent.

Surace et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,144,938*)- discloses a voice user interface in which scripts are prepared and sent to voice talent to generate audio dialogs.

Ainslie (*U.S. Patent: 6,351,679*)- discloses sending text to a recording station to create a voice announcement.

Saylor et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,895,084*)- discloses a VoiceXML parser that identifies speech tags.

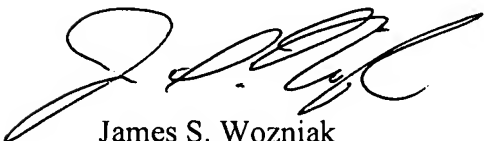
Law et al (*U.S. PG Publication: 2006/0025997*)- discloses a system for developing a voice application including a feature that automatically generates a script and audio file names for recording an audio prompt.

Lewis ("*Prototyping Best-Practice Speech User Interfaces with VoiceXML and the IBM VoiceXML Toolkit*," 2002)- provides a VoiceXML prototyping guide.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. Wozniak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7632. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:30-5:00, F, 7:30-4, Off Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached at (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James S. Wozniak
8/28/2007